inferior varieties to successive revision of royalty whether Government propose to consider restoration of the earlier ratio of 1971; and

(b) if so, within what time-frame and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The increase in royalty rates had been steeper in the higher grades of coal *vis-a-vis* the increase in lower grades from 1971 to 2002.

To effect larger increase in royalty rates for superior grades of coal is a conscious decision taken by the Government *inter-alia* for reason of conservation.

Black marketing of coal

1444. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a rampant black-marketing of coal in the market encouraged by a massive ring of mafia leaders in connivance with officials of the Coal Companies and Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have analysed the basic reasons for black-marketing on such a gigantic scale and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) In general there are no complaints of black marketing of coal supplied to core sector industries like power utilities, steel, cement industries. Core sector linkages are operated through a regime of Fuel Supply Agreements. Coal to non-core sector consumers is released based on the past linkages and sponorship by State Governments and also under Open Sales Scheme as and when surplus coal is available.

The non-core linkages are verified from time to time by the Vigilance Departments of State Governments and vigilance wings of coal companies

and as and when units were found to be closed or not working, the coal linkages have been cancelled. On receipt of complaints of misuse of coal by some linked consumers in the non-core sector, an intensive verification has recently been taken up by the coal companies.

Amendment of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act

1445. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government have decided not to bring amendment to Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act to bring private players into this sector;

(b) if so, the reasons behind not bringing an amendment to the above Act as proposed by previous Government;

(c) by when the Ministry is going to released mission document for coal 2030; and

(d) the salient features in the proposed documents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer given to part (a).

(c) and (d) Ministry of Coal has recently planned to design a long term plan named Coal Vision 2025. The same is at consultation stage. No final document has so far been prepared in this regard.

Loss making units In Coal sector

1446. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has proposed a Rs.6000 crores rehabilitation fund for Eastern Coalfields, Bharat cooking Coal and Central Coalfields;

(b) if so, the time-frame for rehabilitation of these units and whether rehabilitation would also result in upgrading the production and productivity of the labour; and